

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

✓ Claim 1 (cancelled)

Claim 2 (currently amended): A computer structure, as claimed in claim 10 or 11,
wherein:

said set of network commands includes a read network command.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A computer structure, as claimed in claim 10 or 11,
wherein:

AI said set of network commands includes a read network command and write network
command.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A computer structure, as claimed in claim 10 or 11,
wherein:

said set of network commands includes a command relating to a network connection.

Claim 5 (original): A computer structure, as claimed in claim 4, wherein:

said command relating to a network connection includes a disconnect command for
severing a network connection.

Claim 6 (original): A computer structure, as claim in claim 4, wherein:

said command relating to a network connection includes a ping command for use in
determining a network latency.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A computer structure, as claimed in claim 10 or 11,
wherein:

said storage device operating system with block storage device processor includes a
supervisor that capable of setting up a work queue and a work thread.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A computer structure, as claimed in claim 10 or 11, wherein:

said storage device operating system with block storage device processor includes a request director.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A computer structure, as claimed in claim 10 or 11, wherein:

said storage device operating system with block storage device processor includes a request listener.

AI Claim 10 (currently amended): A computer structure, ~~as claimed in claim 1, further for~~ use in the storage of blocks of data comprising:

a network attached storage device comprising:

a storage device network interface capable of transmitting/receiving communications to/from a network infrastructure according to a packet protocol;

a block storage device interface capable of transmitting/receiving communications to/from a block data storage device;

a storage device operating system with a block storage device processor that is capable of:

receiving, from said storage device network interface, a network command of a set of network commands that is interface independent relative to block data storage devices;

generating, to carry out said network command, one or more device specific commands for a block data storage device;

transmitting each of said one or more device specific commands to said block storage device interface;

receiving, from said block storage device interface, a response to said one or more device specific commands that satisfies the network command; and

transmitting, to said storage device network interface, said response to said network command; and

a memory comprising:

a host operating system with a host block storage device processor for implementing in a host computer relative to which said network attached storage device would be remote, wherein said host operating system with a host block storage device processor is capable of:

receiving, from an application executing on a host computer, a file command;

translating a file command into a network command of a set of network commands that is interface independent relative to block data storage devices;

transmitting said network command to a network interface associated with the host computer for conveyance over a network infrastructure according to a packet protocol;

receiving a response to a previously transmitted network command from the network interface; and

transmitting, if appropriate, the response to the application as at least a partial reply to the file command.

AI
Claim 11 (currently amended): A computer structure, ~~as claimed in claim 1, further for~~ use in the storage of blocks of data comprising:

a network attached storage device comprising:

a storage device network interface capable of transmitting/receiving communications to/from a network infrastructure according to a packet protocol;

a block storage device interface capable of transmitting/receiving communications to/from a block data storage device;

a storage device operating system with a block storage device processor that is capable of:

receiving, from said storage device network interface, a network command of a set of network commands that is interface independent relative to block data storage devices;

generating, to carry out said network command, one or more device specific commands for a block data storage device;

transmitting each of said one or more device specific commands to said block storage device interface;

receiving, from said block storage device interface, a response to said one or more device specific commands that satisfies the network command; and

transmitting, to said storage device network interface, said response to said network command; and

a host computer with respect to which said network attached storage device is considered remote, said host computer comprising:

a host network interface for transmitting/receiving communications to/from a network infrastructure according to a packet protocol;

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a host operating system with a host block storage device processor that is capable of:

receiving, from an application executing on a host computer, a file command;

translating a file command into a network command of a set of network commands that is interface independent relative to block data storage devices;

transmitting said network command to said host network interface for conveyance over a network infrastructure according to a packet protocol;

receiving a response to a previously transmitted network command from said host network interface; and

transmitting, if appropriate, said response to the application as at least a partial reply to the file command.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A network structure, as claimed in claim 10 or 11, further comprising:

a network infrastructure operatively connected to said storage device network interface and said host network interface, wherein said network infrastructure is capable of operating according to a packet protocol.

Claim 13 (original): A computer structure comprising:

a network attached storage device comprising:

a storage device network interface capable of transmitting/receiving communications to/from a network infrastructure according to a packet protocol;

a block storage device interface capable of transmitting/receiving communications to/from a block data storage device;

a storage device operating system with a block storage device processor that is capable of:

receiving, from said storage device network interface, a network command of a set of network commands that is interface independent relative to block data storage devices;

generating, to carry out said network command, one or more device specific commands for a block data storage device;

transmitting each of said one or more device specific commands to said block storage device interface;

receiving, from said block storage device interface, a response to said one or more device specific commands that satisfies the network command; and

transmitting, to said storage device network interface, said response to said network command;

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a host computer with respect to which said network attached storage device is considered remote, said host computer comprising:

a host network interface for transmitting/receiving communications to/from a network infrastructure according to a packet protocol;

a host operating system with a host block storage device processor that is capable of:

receiving, from an application executing on a host computer, a file command;

translating a file command into a network command of a set of network commands that is interface independent relative to block data storage devices;

transmitting said network command to said host network interface for conveyance over a network infrastructure according to a packet protocol;

receiving a response to a previously transmitted network command from said host network interface; and

transmitting, if appropriate, said response to the application as at least a partial reply to the file command.

Claim 14 (original): A network structure, as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:

a network infrastructure operatively connected to said storage device network interface and said host network interface, wherein said network infrastructure is capable of operating according to a packet protocol.

Claim 15 (original): A computer structure comprising:

Al a host computer that is remotely located relative to a network attached storage device and comprising:

a host network interface for transmitting/receiving communications to/from a network infrastructure according to a packet protocol;

a host operating system with a host block storage device processor that is capable of:

receiving, from an application executing on a host computer, a file command;

translating a file command into a network command of a set of network commands that is interface independent relative to block data storage devices;

transmitting said network command to said host network interface for conveyance over a network infrastructure according to a packet protocol;

receiving a response to a previously transmitted network command from said host network interface; and

transmitting, if appropriate, said response to the application as at least a partial reply to the file command.

Claim 16 (original): A computer structure, as claimed in claim 15, further comprising:

a network attached storage device comprising:

a storage device network interface capable of transmitting/receiving communications to/from a network infrastructure according to a packet protocol;

a block storage device interface capable of transmitting/receiving communications to/from a block data storage device;

a storage device operating system with a block storage device processor that is capable of:

receiving, from said storage device network interface, a network command of a set of network commands that is interface independent relative to block data storage devices;

AI generating, to carry out said network command, one or more device specific commands for a block data storage device;

transmitting each of said one or more device specific commands to said block storage device interface;

receiving, from said block storage device interface, a response to said one or more device specific commands that satisfies the network command; and

transmitting, to said storage device network interface, said response to said network command.

Claim 17 (original): A network structure, as claimed in claim 15 or 16, further comprising:

a network infrastructure operatively connected to said storage device network interface and said host network interface, wherein said network infrastructure is capable of operating according to a packet protocol.

✓ Claim 18-20 (cancelled)